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SUBMITTED BY: Charlotte Mills

TO - Legislative Hearing on Marine Reserves

FROM - Charlotte Mills - Member of the Cape Perpetua to Heceta Head Team

DATE - February 2, 2012

I respectfully request for the Legislative Committee to please accept and review the comment on the current Marine Reserves proposal being submitted here and for that proposal be approved and endorsed as Marine Public Policy for our state of Oregon.

A coastal resident for over 40 years, I've been an active member of the Cape Perpetua to Heceta Head Team since this reserve was nominated and our group submitted its incursion to OPAC in 2008. Some of our group have actively supported the Marine Reserve effort for over a decade when Gov. John Kitzhaber first initiated the reserve process.

Two of the most important issues I personally support are:

1. To preserve the incalculably valuable kelp forests that exist along Oregon's 362 coastal miles inside the three-mile zone - and
2. To protect the "big, old, fat female fish species" who produce the most productive progeny to restore and replenish Oregon's salmon and other most commercially valuable fish stocks and who choose the intertidal kelp forest for safe brooding.

As a board member of Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition for 15 years, I also continue to be an Adopter of Coastal Mile #134, was a commercial fisher in the Bering Sea and a longtime recreational fisher of Oregon waters. And I urge the committee to review Oregon's Statewide Planning Goals 17 and 19 - Coastal Shorelands and Ocean Resources - provisions for providing long-term ecological, economic and social values for future Oregon generations.

Three of the most knowledgeable and eloquent spokes-people about the worldwide rocky intertidal areas include: 1) Rachel Carson's prize-winning publication The Edge of the Sea; 2) Steinbeck's best friend Ed Rickett's book Between Pacific Tides after he studied and collected along Lincoln County's "unique marine garden" where tidepool marine invertebrates exist nowhere else on the planet; and 3) Renown biologist and Pulitzer Prize-winner E. O. Wilson who calls the planet's intertidal areas "Second Edens" to be protected much as our nation's National Parks are protected on land.

Our Cape Perpetua Team, I believe, concurs and urges your committee to: 1) Recognize the over 25,000 hours Oregon volunteers have spent at the local areas meeting with and sharing information with fishers, crabbers, divers, rock fishers, coastal recreation business people and coastal community citizens - a few times hostile because of inadequate information but as discussions continued, more often positive; and 2) To join with the 29 nations where 4500 marine protected areas and 255 marine reserves already exist.

Perhaps one of the most astonishing subjects little reported or discussed by academics or activists about kelp found and so indigenous within potential marine reserve locations is Ed Rickett's scientific opinion and claim that kelp forests worldwide absorb as much carbon dioxide and create as much oxygen as all the forests on land. A profoundly important reason to continue research on Rickett's claim and to create Marine Reserves where kelp forests can be protected should climate change predictions about the possibility of major forest-land losses actually happen.

Sincere regards - Charlotte Mills

